

morning be obliged to change his shirt in the middle of the day, for example, he will keep his skin comfortably dry for a certain time by a good wash with very hot water.

"The next class of cases are those in which, with or without tendency to perspire over the body generally, but most probably without, there is a tendency to distressing perspiration of some particular part; as the axillæ, hands, feet, etc. Patients who seek relief for this are generally young persons from 13 to 20, and they often endure great misery and persecution in consequence of this symptom, which really admits of easy medical treatment. The health is sure to be improved by free purgation, and by quinine, air, exercise, etc. But the distressing local symptom may be got rid of for hours at a time by the thorough application of the hottest water to the offending part until it is red, hot, and tingling as if scalded.

"Thirdly, there are the cases of true hectic; diurnal shiverings, followed by heat, and drenching perspiration of an earthy, sickly odour, and depending (as we suppose) on absorption of decaying pus from some internal organ, probably lung, etc. In these cases I have tried every remedy I know of without result. I have caused profuse perspiration by the lamp-bath in the afternoon without preventing the access of hectic and perspiration in the evening; and confess my remedy inert—or next to it—in these cases.

"But there is a fourth variety—the ordinary night-sweat of the phthisical, not preceded by regular hectic paroxysm, but induced by all that relaxes, lessened by all that strengthens, and coming on when the patient falls asleep. For many of these cases the hot water gives relief, to a certain extent, especially if the perspiration begin, as it often does, on one special part of the body by preference, as the chest, hands, or feet. In such cases I have the testimony of patients that the hot water greatly helps to control the sweat. The way is, when the patient goes to bed, to have the chest reddened with hot water and wiped dry. One patient, whom I see daily, and who is confined to his bed, calls out for it so soon as he perceives the dampness beginning, and has it used to chest, hands, and feet, and by this means often, not always, passes a night without being obliged to shift his linen.

"In conclusion, let me say that I only offer this as a contribution towards the relief of an unpleasant symptom, and not as a cure for a disease; and that whoever uses it must recollect that it is not *warm*, but *hot* water, just below scalding point that is to be employed."

[We need hardly dilate upon the value of this announcement, should further experience confirm the efficacy of the measure recommended by Mr. Druitt.—
ED. A. J.]

21. *Therapeutic Action of the Hyposulphites*.—Prof. C. O. WEBER, of Bonn, has quite recently repeated some of Polli's experiments with these articles, and has been, to a certain extent, as successful as the Italian physiologist. He gave two grammes of the hyposulphite of soda, for three days consecutively, to a large rabbit, and on the fourth day he injected a drachm of water, containing half a minim of sulphuretted hydrogen water, into the crural vein; twice this dose had, in a previous experiment, killed a cat. In the rabbit just mentioned, however, there was nothing wrong but accelerated respiration; it took food the same day, and moved freely about. There were no changes in the animal temperature. The animal now took for four succeeding days two grammes of the hyposulphite per diem, and was very well with it. The next day two drachms of water, containing two and a half minims of sulphuretted hydrogen water, were injected, but caused no bad effects, while half that dose in another rabbit had caused convulsions and involuntary evacuations. The former animal continued cheerful, and took again one gramme of the hyposulphite. A fresh injection of 6½ minims four days afterwards only caused rapid respiration; otherwise the rabbit was very well. Four days after, ten drops were injected, again causing rapid respiration and some sluggishness, but nothing further. The day after, however, the animal appeared decidedly unwell; it sat in a corner, and seemed to have the "blues." Respiration was accelerated; two and a half grammes of the

hyposulphite were given him the same day, but from that time nothing further was done. The animal ate, but became much emaciated, and partly lost its hair, so that its appearance was anything but prepossessing; it, however, appeared to be in pretty good spirits. The feces were covered with mucus. About three weeks afterwards it was found dead. The *post-mortem* showed a moderate intestinal catarrh, but nothing else. There can be no doubt that the animal was essentially protected from the deleterious effects of sulphuretted hydrogen by the hyposulphite; and it would most likely have entirely recovered if the latter had been continued. Some other experiments with dogs, in whom putrid pus was injected, the hyposulphite having been administered for some days previously, were not so successful, as the animals died in spite of it; but perhaps a larger dose of the remedy might have had more effect. The hyposulphites are quite innocuous, their only unpleasant effects being slight diarrhœa.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 25, 1865.

22. *Bulimic and Syncopal Dyspepsia*.—The *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique* for August 15, 1864, gives, under this title, an extract from a work by Dr. GUIPON, to which the Civrieux prize has been awarded by the Academy of Medicine.

Bulimic dyspepsia has been several times met with by Dr. Guipon, independently of any other affection than nervous gastric disturbance. Its essential character is not only an exaggeration of the appetite, but also an actual increase of the digestive power. Normal digestion supplies the wants of the economy, and imparts a feeling of being satisfied; in bulimia, on the other hand, although digestion takes place regularly, the sensation of appeased want is not felt, or is only transient. Bulimia, in its simple form, is in fact a disease characterized by excess and exaggeration of function, and is the converse of atonic dyspepsia, where the digestive power is lessened. Bulimia may, however, be accompanied by other dyspeptic symptoms, such as pain, acidity, or pyrosis; these are relieved by taking food, but reappear when the digestive process—rapidly performed—is completed. Dr. Guipon has met with the disorder in both the acute and the chronic form. The latter is much the more obstinate and strongly marked; and of it he gives the following description:—

The patients complain that they are dying of hunger; that they constantly require to take food for their nourishment. It is in vain that they multiply their repasts, and take meat six, eight, or even fifteen times in the day; they are always in the state of persons suffering from excessive hunger and inanition; they feel fatigued and languid, are much depressed, and their intellectual faculties are weakened. Sleep even does not interrupt the morbid hunger; to obtain rest, the patients are obliged to take food several times during the night.

For the treatment of bulimia in the acute form, or in the chronic form when not of long standing, medicine possesses means of more or less efficacy. In inveterate cases, the medical art is less successful. Bulimia, when temporary, is almost always connected with some general disturbance, especially hysteria; and hence the remedies which act on the nervous system generally will influence the digestion. Antispasmodics, sedatives, emollient or calmative baths, will be the remedies that will present the greatest chance of success, when used in combination with suitable hygienic regulations. In the chronic form of more or less duration, therapeutic means have in most cases only relatively advantageous results. Opium and its preparations retard digestion and the solicitations of the appetite; but, like all palliatives, they soon fail in producing this effect, or give rise to symptoms which necessitate the suspension of their employment. It is the same with the various narcotics, applied internally or externally; with nitrate of bismuth, arsenic, iodine, etc. The remedy which has seemed to M. Guipon to succeed best, has been raw meat, minced. In a very obstinate case, by means of this, he succeeded in procuring more lasting relief than had been afforded by a host of medicinal substances variously combined. The failure of strength, which is always so great and remarkable in bulimic patients, notwithstanding that a state of *embonpoint* is often very perceptible, is scarcely relieved by tonics. This condition has always appeared to Dr. Guipon to be in proportion to the over-activity of the digestion; so that, in fact, the